



Dawn Travalini
Lead Vegetation Strategy Specialist
Vegetation Strategy
40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451
781-907-2448

November 9, 2011

CERTIFIED MAIL—Return Receipt Requested

**45 Day Yearly Operational Plan
Public Notice, Review and Comment Period**

Dear Municipal Official:

In compliance with 333 CMR 11.06, *45 Day Yearly Operational Plan Public Notice, Review and Comment*, please review National Grid's (New England Power Company and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) 2012 Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) at the following website (hard copy available upon request):

http://www.nationalgridus.com/non_html/MA_2012_YOP.pdf

National Grid's YOP details specific information pertaining to the intended 2012 program. Please note that the YOP also lists the rights-of-way from the 2011 treatment program in case National Grid needs to request a "touch-up" retreatment of scattered locations from our contractor(s).

Please review the enclosed YOP map(s) that locate the right-of-way corridors and the plotted location of known *sensitive areas* including public and private drinking water supplies. If there are any additional *sensitive areas* located on or near the rights-of-way, please advise us as soon as possible so we may establish permanent records and implement appropriate field protective actions. We particularly rely on this process to collect corrections to the public wells and to record the location of private wells.

A copy of the Environmental Monitor Notice, published under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) is available at: <http://www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/emonitor.aspx>.

Enclosures: 21 Day Herbicide Application Notification
Environmental Monitor Notice
Map(s)

Notice Sent to: Chief Elected Municipal Official
Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Private and Public Water Suppliers
Lewis Tree Service or Vegetation Control Service or Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau

Municipality: Dunstable
ROW#S: 1685 4007



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CERTIFIED MAIL—Return Receipt Requested

Board of Selectmen
511 Main Street
Dunstable, MA 01827

Dear Board of Selectmen:

In compliance with 333 CMR 11.07, *21 day herbicide application notification*, this letter is to inform you that National Grid (New England Power Company and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) intends to selectively apply herbicides along power line rights-of-way that pass through your municipality.

As detailed in National Grid's Five Year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and Yearly Operational Plan (YOP), this treatment is conducted as a component of an integrated vegetation management (IVM) program that also utilizes mechanical and natural control techniques. National Grid's current Five Year Vegetation Management Plan (2009-2013) is posted at the following website (hard copy available upon request):

http://www.nationalgridus.com/non_html/National_Grid_VMP_2009-2013.pdf

The current YOP is posted at the following website (hard copy available upon request):

http://www.nationalgridus.com/non_html/MA_2012_YOP.pdf

As described in the VMP and YOP, the program will consist of a late winter-spring mechanical control, cut surface (CST) or basal treatment; a summer selective foliage, and, as necessary, summer and fall CST and basal treatments.

Treatment Periods*

| January 2, 2012 – June 8, 2012 | June 1, 2012 - October 12, 2012 | October 12, 2012 – December 21, 2012 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| CST | Foliar | CST |
| Basal | CST | Basal |
| | Basal | |

* The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

In compliance with 333 CMR 11.06-11.07, no herbicide applications will occur before the conclusion of the 45 day YOP review period, the 21 day treatment notice and the 48 hour newspaper notice. At the end of these review periods, which can run concurrently, no application shall commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the treatment periods listed above.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts recommended herbicides for use in *sensitive areas* listed in Section 7 (pages 13-15) of the YOP will be selectively applied to target vegetation by experienced, Massachusetts' licensed/certified applicators that walk along the rights-of-way using backpack equipment. Copies of the manufacturers' herbicide labels and fact sheets are also included in the YOP, Appendices 7 and 8.

The work will be performed by one of the following companies:

Vegetation Control Service, Inc.
2342 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331
(978) 249-5348

Lewis Tree Service, Inc
300 Lucius Gordon Drive
West Henrietta, NY 14586
(585) 436-3208

Asplundh Tree Expert Company
15 Pleasant Harbour Road
Plymouth, MA 02360
(508) 326-4127

This informational 21-day notification is in compliance with Chapter 132B, section 6B of the Massachusetts General Laws, 333 CMR 11.05-11.07 Rights of Way Management and Chapter 85, Section 10 of the Acts of 2000. National Grid's vegetation management program is subject to federal and state regulations only. By statute, local permits or rulings are not applicable.

For inquiries concerning safety of the herbicides, please contact:

Director of Rights-of-Way Programs
Massachusetts State Pesticide Bureau
Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114-2151
Telephone: (617) 626-1781

Please contact me if you have any questions about the application and monitoring of the vegetation control program.

Sincerely,



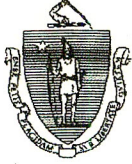
Dawn Travalini
Lead Vegetation Strategy Specialist

CC: Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Lewis Tree Service or Vegetation Control Service or Asplundh Tree Expert Co.
Massachusetts Pesticide Bureau

Municipality: Dunstable
ROW#(S): 1685 4007

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD K. SULLIVAN JR.
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
Commissioner

Notice

Pursuant to the provisions of the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations, 333 CMR 11.00, to apply herbicides to control vegetation along rights-of-way, a five year Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP) must be approved by the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR). National Grid has submitted and holds a current VMP, therefore, notice of receipt of a YOP and procedures for public review is hereby given as required by Section 11.06 (3).

National Grid has submitted a YOP to DAR for 2012 and National Grid's YOP identifies the following Municipalities as locations where they intend to use herbicides to treat their electric Rights-of-Way in 2012:

| 2012 Municipalities | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Adams | Hanson | Rehoboth |
| Ashburnham | Haverhill | Seekonk |
| Attleboro | Hingham | Shelburne |
| Auburn | Holbrook | Shirley |
| Ayer | Holden | Shutesbury |
| Barre | Hubbardston | Somerset |
| Belchertown | Lancaster | Southborough |
| Berkley | Lanesborough | Southbridge |
| Beverly | Leicester | Spencer |
| Billerica | Leominster | Sterling |
| Bridgewater | Leverett | Sunderland |
| Brockton | Leydon | Sutton |
| Charlton | Lowell | Swansea |
| Chelmsford | Marlborough | Taunton |
| Cheshire | Methuen | Tewksbury |
| Clinton | Millbury | Uxbridge |
| Colrain | Millville | Ware |
| Conway | North Adams | Webster |
| Deerfield | North Brookfield | Wendell |
| Dighton | Northbridge | West Bridgewater |
| Dudley | Norton | West Brookfield |
| Dunstable | Oxford | Westminster |
| East Brookfield | Pelham | Weymouth |
| Fitchburg | Pepperell | Winchendon |
| Gardner | Randolph | Worcester |
| Groton | Raynham | Wrentham |

In 2012 NATIONAL GRID will conduct a selective herbicide treatment program on their rights-of-way as part of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program on transmission and distribution lines.

The intended vegetation control programs will be consistent with the guidelines set forth in National Grid's VMP and YOP. Herbicides will be selectively applied to target vegetation by licensed/certified applicators carrying backpack or hand held application equipment.

National Grid will only use herbicides recommended by DAR for use in sensitive areas for their IVM program. Pursuant to 333 CMR 11.04, no herbicides will be sprayed within any designated "no spray sensitive sites." Instead, mechanical only methods will be used to control vegetation in these areas.

Public notification will be provided to each "affected" municipality at least twenty-one days prior to any herbicide application and in a newspaper notification at least 48 hours before the beginning of the spray season.

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.06 (2), National Grid's YOP includes the identification of target vegetation; methods of identifying, marking and protecting sensitive areas; application techniques; the herbicides, application rates, carriers and adjuvants proposed for use; alternative control measures, a list of the application companies and YOP supervisor; procedures for handling, mixing and loading herbicides; emergency resources including local, state and federal emergency telephone numbers; maps of the rights-of-way that include mapped sensitive areas, and herbicide fact sheets and labels.

PUBLIC REVIEW

The DAR seeks to verify the location of sensitive areas defined in Section 11.02 and reported in the YOP. DAR itself has a limited ability to survey the geography, land use and water supplies in all the communities through which rights-of-way pass. Municipalities have most of this information readily available, and the particular knowledge with which to better certify the sensitive areas in their communities. DAR, therefore, requests, and urges the assistance of the "affected" municipalities in reviewing the completeness and accuracy of the maps contained in the submitted YOP.

DAR has established the following procedures for this review:

Copies of the YOP and this *Notice* will be sent by the applicant to the Conservation Commission, Board of Health (or designated health agent), the Head of Government (Mayor, City Manager, Chair of the Board of Selectman) and appropriate water suppliers of each municipality where herbicides are to be applied during the calendar year of 2011; and if applicable, to the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Municipal agencies and officials will have forty-five days, following receipt of the YOP, to review its map for inaccuracies and omissions in the location of "sensitive areas not readily identifiable in the field."

The YOP can also be viewed at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at www.mass.gov/agr or at http://www.nationalgridus.com/non_html/MA_2012_YOP.pdf

Municipal agencies and officials are requested to forward the YOP to the appropriate official(s) in their municipality who are qualified to certify the accuracy of the sensitive areas indicated on the maps. The maps should then be "corrected" and returned to the applicant and a copy should be sent to DAR, at the address listed below, within the forty-five day review period.

If a city or town needs more time to carry out this review, it should send a written request for an extension to DAR and cite why there is a "good cause" for requesting additional time.

The applicant is required to make all corrections and the corrected maps will be sent back to the city/town that requested the disputed changes within fifteen days of receipt of the request. DAR will decide whether or not

the YOP should be approved without the requested changes. DAR will consider the "final approval" of a YOP individually for each municipality.

The twenty-one day public review period of the Municipal Notification Letter may serve concurrently with the forty-five day YOP review period in order to provide public notifications as required by 333 CMR 11.06-7, if the applicant has an approved VMP and if all the requisite city-town offices that received copies of the YOP completed their review and all corrections were duly made by the applicant and approved by DAR.

A failure by the city/town to respond to the applicant's submission of the YOP within the forty-five day period will automatically be considered by DAR to indicate agreement by the municipal officials with the sensitive area demarcations provided by the applicant in their YOP.

Any questions or comments on the information provided in this *Notice* and the procedures established for the municipal review outlined above should be addressed to:

Michael McClean
Director of Rights-of-Way Programs
Massachusetts State Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114-2151

Any questions or comments regarding the YOP should be addressed to:

Dawn Travalini
Lead Vegetation Strategy Specialist
National Grid
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON Thursday, December 23, 2011